



Gwendolyn West

February 20, 1945 - July 29, 2020

Gwendolyn West was born on February 20, 1945 in Detroit, Mich., the first of three children born to Roy Lee and Eddythe Mae Dixon. She grew up in Detroit and finished high school when she was fifteen. She attended Western College for Women (now a part of Miami University of Ohio) in Oxford, Ohio and majored in political science. There she met and later married Dave R. West, the father of her two children, Miles and Shannon.

The young family moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor, Mich.; Allentown, Penn.; and Tallahassee, Fla. before settling in Randallstown, Md. In 1977, the Wests were among the first Black families to live in Randallstown. Gwen loved her home and her neighborhood and felt that it was an ideal place to raise a family. After divorcing, Gwen worked hard to maintain her home and to support and educate her children.

Professionally, Gwen primarily worked in the social services and non-profit arenas. She served as program coordinator of the Negro Cultural Center in Allentown, program director of Allen Center in South Baltimore, director of Forest Park Senior Center in West Baltimore, and field director of Girl Scouts of Central Maryland.

Fulfilling her life long dream, in 2001 Gwen was able to earn a master's degree from the University of Phoenix in organizational management. Her

next position before retiring in 2010 was contract specialist for the Mayor's Office of Employment Development for Baltimore.

Church was an important part of Gwen's life . She was a member of Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Randallstown for more than 30 years. During that time she served as part of the Lay Organization.

Throughout her life, Gwen always had diverse interests and talents. She was an excellent seamstress and tailor and made many of her own and her family's clothes. She even made her own wedding dress. It was common for her to start sewing clothes in the evening for her children to wear to school the very next day. Gwen was also an excellent baker and developed a business called Spirited Desserts. Her rum cake and her limoncello-infused lemon meringue cake will surely be missed. Gwen also made a mean margarita!

Gwen enjoyed traveling and was always ready to go. Her most memorable trips included cruises to the Mediterranean and Alaska and tours of Iceland and South Africa. Her last trip was a jazz cruise in the Caribbean with her sister, an experience that allowed her to combine her love of jazz and travel. Gwen also loved spending time at the beach with family and friends.

Upon retirement, Gwen became everyone's favorite "Avon Lady." She used her position as a sales leader to keep active and connect with the community. She also volunteered at different cultural events and was a member of the Red Hat Society.

Gwen will be remembered for her love of life, her great sense of humor, and her hats, which were her crowning glory.

Gwen lived a full life and, after a brief illness, transitioned on July 29, 2020.

Gwendolyn West is survived by her son, Miles R. West, and daughter, Shannon L. West, M.D.; grandson, Jordan J. West; sister, Audrey D. Settle; brother and sister-in law, Lloyd A. and Debra Dixon; brothers-in-law Richard West (Eloise) and Roland West (Yvonne); sister-in-law, Patricia Chapman (Semue); and many relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

Baltimore-Washington

Previous Events

Wake

AUG 14. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD

Service

AUG 14. 10:30 AM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD

Tribute Wall



“ To View the Webcast of the Funeral for Gwendolyn West, Please Click the Link below.



March Life Tribute Centers - August 10, 2020 at 08:50 PM

M(

“ We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.

March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - May 14, 2021 at 11:31 AM

GH

“ Tears can never wipe away 58 years of memories and a beautiful friendship. Therefore, I shall rejoice and be glad that Gwen and I had the opportunity to share life's ups, downs, and all in between. My soul sister is no longer present in physical form but will always be with me. Shannon I am here for you anytime of the day or night. Love you.

Gayle Houston"J.B." - August 14, 2020 at 11:38 AM

LB

“ *Bettis family is sending our love and condolences to the family.*

Lynese Bettis - August 14, 2020 at 11:22 AM

TK

“ *The Meachem Family send our prayers to the West Family. My husband loved and respected Ms. Gwen. He remodeled her kitchen and they had fun doing it! Rest In Peace Ms. Gwen you will be truly missed in the neighborhood.*

David and Tonya Meachem 3425 Edcrest Rd.

TONYA Michele KENNEDY - August 14, 2020 at 10:32 AM

 Hope Settle

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Hope Settle - August 14, 2020 at 10:19 AM

JF

“ *Enjoyed laughing with and listening to Gwen as she regaled us with her adventures as an Avon Lady — a compnybnearvand dear to me. May she continue to entertain the angels!*
With love,
Jean Ford



Jean Ford - August 14, 2020 at 10:18 AM

AS

“ *Angela Settle lit a candle in memory of Gwendolyn West*



Angela Settle - August 14, 2020 at 10:09 AM

EW

“ *E. West lit a candle in memory of Gwendolyn West*



E. West - August 14, 2020 at 10:03 AM

Y(

*Loved my sweet cousin Gwendolyn.
Yvonne*

Yvonne Pernell (Cousin) - August 14, 2020 at 10:16 AM

Hope Settle

“ *Hope Settle lit a candle in memory of Gwendolyn West*



Hope Settle - August 14, 2020 at 09:56 AM

Hope Settle

To Mom, Lloyd, Shannon, Miles and Jordan: John, Angela and I are here with you. We are so sorry for your loss. Aunt Gwen will be missed.

Hope Settle - August 14, 2020 at 10:10 AM

KD

“ I was lucky to have Gwen with me in college. Often we stayed up late working on papers and studying for exams. We were both political science majors and we spent hours discussing the vagaries of our world. Whenever we saw each other over the years our conversation would pick up where we had left off. I'm sorry that Gwen has gone from us but she will always be in my heart. She loved her children so much and she worked hard to give them a good life. Gwen succeeded in all that she tackled. Please remember her love for you and her joyous life.
Love,
Kate Dell

kate Dell - August 13, 2020 at 10:21 PM

YE

“ Miles, Shannon and Jordan,
Keeping you all in our prayers. Please know that we will be here if you need any help. Blessings to all of you at this difficult time.
Uncle Roland and Aunt Yvonne

Yvonne L. Edmonds-West - August 13, 2020 at 08:31 PM

EF

“ One of my fondest memories of Gwen is watching her and Shannon in the jon boat on Back Bay behind Audrey's Sandbridge home. At the time Shannon was a young teenager. Mother and daughter would be out there rowing in the bay for hours. It was definitely their special time together and you could feel the bonding experience. For those of us watching them it brought us an equal amount of happiness. Rest in peace Gwen. You were a great mother, sister and friend.

*With deepest sympathy,
Eloise Foster*

Eloise Foster - August 13, 2020 at 05:22 PM

TR

“ The Sherman Family, 8825 Liberty Road purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Gwendolyn West.



The Sherman Family, 8825 Liberty Road - August 13, 2020 at 02:22 PM

DB

“ My sympathy to Gwen West family. We were coworkers and red hat ladies. She was always full of life and had many activities underway. She will be missed.

diana brown - August 12, 2020 at 07:25 PM

TD

“ I always admired your mother's caring and selfless nature. She was a true friend and someone who was always a pleasure to have around. A mother is with us always, first in her lifetime, then forever in our memory.

Love

Thelma Daniels

Thelma Daniels - August 11, 2020 at 10:13 PM

VW

“ Gwen will certainly be missed by her AVON family. Will miss our long conversations. May she now rest in Heaven. We love you also but God loved you more.

Vermel Wells - August 10, 2020 at 09:22 AM

LJ

“ May God give the family everthing they need during their hour of grief. I am praying for the family. We loved Gwen, but God loved her more. Remember God is still in charge!

Linda Jones - August 09, 2020 at 08:35 PM

RM

Sending love and prayers to you and the family. Gwen and I met in 1980 when we both worked at Prudential Life Insurance Company and have shared many happy times together. Gwen was a great lady and will surely be missed by many.

Rose McNeill - August 09, 2020 at 11:17 PM

JJ

“ May God be with you in this hour of grief!
Praying for the family.
Jackie

Jackie Jones - August 07, 2020 at 08:50 AM

MJ

“ Remember GOD is always in your corner at a time like this. With sympathy M. Jones



Mattie Jones - August 06, 2020 at 08:11 PM

TF

“ The Beads Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gwendolyn West.



The Beads Family - August 05, 2020 at 05:10 PM